

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR? Josh Hawley, Pastor of Spiritual Growth May 25, 2014

Luke 10:25-37

When it comes to our "neighbor" we tend to either isolate ourselves or

to narrowly define who our "neighbor" is.

Jesus says our "neighbor" is potentially <u>anyone</u> we encounter, at any <u>time</u> or any <u>place</u>.

The Samaritan: <u>Compassion</u> in <u>Action</u>

- We have to get <u>close</u>.
- God only asks us to use what we <u>have</u> to meet the needs He puts in <u>front</u> of us.
- Helping others will require sacrifice.

## **Key Questions**

• Are there any <u>boundaries</u> in offering help to others?

(2 Thessalonians 3:6-15)

• <u>Where</u> in my life am I loving someone like this?

(Romans 13:8)

- This week I will ask God to help me see anyone as my "neighbor".
- $\circ~~$  I will ask God for a "Good Samaritan" moment this week.
- $\circ~$  I will work through this week's Study Questions by myself or with others.



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Bridge LifeGroups are **currently on summer break**. We will continue to offer study questions each week in this **simplified format**, which can be useful for personal devotions and/or discussion starters for LifeGroups that choose to meet for a portion of the summer break.

- 1. **READ Luke 10:25-29.** Jesus made a point to note how those persons who were knowledgeable about the Law (the priest and Levite) did not obey it. How would the inclusion of the Samaritan as the "hero" of the story affect the lawyer?
- 2. **READ Luke 10:30-37.** In verse 36, how did Jesus reverse the focus of the lawyer's question from one of identifying a neighbor to one of being a neighbor?
- 3. Jesus tells this parable as a way to help explain the Great Commandment – loving God and loving others. How do each of the following passages motivate you to go beyond good intentions and love those around you in a practical way?
  - Matthew 22:37-40:

- Mark 10:46-52:
- James 1:27:
- James 2:14-18:
- 1 John 3:16-18:
- 4. What helps you pay attention and take notice of the needs of others?
- 5. What can distract you from taking notice of these needs?
- 6. How can you become more interruptible so you can be better used by God?

As you close in prayer, look over the notes from this weekend's message and pray specifically about ways you sense the Lord wants to shape your heart and actions.

This **LifeGroup** Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. You can do this homework on your own; however we encourage you to check out our warm and friendly message-based **LifeGroups**! Get a copy of this Study Guide at theBridgeFresno.com by clicking on the "Messages" link.